

# Project Information

Company: L.F.C., LLC

## Project Description

### General Info

**Project #:** 224

**Project Name:** L.F.C., LFC Welsh 001

**Total Project Cost:** 3,610,500.00

**Total project cost per prospective broadband recipient:** 1,245.00

**Infrastructure cost per prospective broadband recipient:** 2,900.00

**Number of households to be served:** 1245

**Number of businesses to be served:** 30

**GUMBO cost per prospective broadband recipient:** 1,245.00

**Number of GUMBO households to be served:** 1245

**Number of GUMBO businesses to be served:** 30

**General Location/Parishes:** Jefferson Davis

**Base Speed (Minimum Download/Upload):** 100MBPS/100MBPS

**Supported Scalability Speeds (Minimum Download/Upload):** Multiple Gigabit

### Qualifications and Experience:

Provide the following details:

- Number of years the applicant has provided internet services;
- A history of the number of households and consumers, by year of service, to which the applicant has provided broadband internet access, as well as the current number of households to which broadband internet access (at least 25:3 Mbps) is offered;
- The number of completed internet service infrastructure projects funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application submittal;
- Whether the applicant has ever participated in an internet service infrastructure project funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, and if so, for each project, the nature and impact of the project, the role of the applicant, the total cost of the project, and the dollar amount of federal or state grant funding;
- The number of penalties paid by the applicant, a subsidiary or affiliate of the applicant, or the holding company of the applicant, relative to internet service infrastructure projects funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application submittal; and
- The number of times the applicant, a subsidiary or affiliate of the applicant, or the holding company of the applicant has ever been a defendant in any federal or state criminal proceeding or civil litigation as a result of its participation in an internet service infrastructure project funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application submittal

Louisiana Fiber Communications, LLC, a division of Future MTE, is a mutually owned division of Louisiana Fiber Communications, as a prime contractor with a billion dollar revenue company MasTec, Inc (NYSE:MTZ). LFC, LLC, through equity ownership with MasTec, has provided broadband and cable television services over the past twenty-five years successfully in major city markets: San Francisco, Miami, Chicago, and New York. Recognizing the desperate “fiber to the home” necessity for rural Louisiana, due to the 2020 hurricanes Laura and Delta which, decimated the existing broadband infrastructure, LFC, LLC stands prepared to provide Jeff Davis parish with established partners to foster the objectives of the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development & Connectivity to connect rural Louisiana to a scalable partner who can provide high-speed fiber optic internet services. Application includes both Middle Mile and Last Mile Sections, in a FTTH topology, and local farms, schools, hospitals, and existing homes will all benefit. Currently the proposed geographical areas only have broadband capabilities in antiquated DSL and dangerous wireless communications which provide inadequate and intermittent latency. This grant should be funded because rural Southwest Louisiana and proposed geographic areas in Jeff Davis Parish have been underserved by incumbent cable and telecommunication companies. Rural Louisiana should receive this grant award because the rate of upstream speeds necessary for the upcoming era’s work-at-home professionals, home-school students, and healthcare professionals frequently rely heavily upon two-way video feeds. In Jeff Davis Parish, with the last two-year lock down due to the COVID Pandemic, many students and work from home individuals have been unable to function or to earn a living due to the constraints of the current rural broadband bandwidth. In a statement to Broadband World News, the Fiber Broadband Association elaborated on the reasons why many rural communities were underserved: "First is a concern that in some states, funds weren't awarded based on merit, but rather through political connections. And in other states, there are concerns that funds have been directed to incumbent providers rather than potentially more qualified new entrants." Furthermore, this is the sole opportunity for underserved rural Louisiana areas like Jeff Davis Parish to receive funding, as reflected in a quote from the Broadband Infrastructure Playbook: "No one expects that the federal government will invest further billions for a network refresh in 5- or 10-years' time. It would be a tremendous loss of opportunity for any given state – and put that state at a competitive disadvantage in a national and global marketplace – if the networks funded today fail to keep pace with the demands of their citizens and community needs." LFC, LLC has never participated in an internet service infrastructure project funded by the state or federal grant programs, so accordingly LFC, LLC has never been a defendant in any criminal proceeding nor any civil litigation due to its participation in a state or federally funded infrastructure program.

### **Financial Background:**

- Provide five years of financial statements, pro forma statements, or financial audits to ensure financial and organizational strength regarding the ability of the applicant to successfully meet the terms of the grant requirements and the ability to meet the potential repayment of grant funds. If the applicant has been in business for less than five years, provide documentation for the number of years in business
- Indicate whether the applicant, a subsidiary or affiliate of the applicant, or the holding company of the applicant has ever filed for bankruptcy

LFC, LLC, Future Multi-Housing, LLC began in south Florida in 2008. Five years of proven track record and consultancy are included as Appendix A. LFC, LLC has never filed for bankruptcy, nor has any subsidiary or holding company. LFC, LLC, and its affiliates hold equity ownership in MasTec’s ISP since 2006 and continue to have staked consultative interests in MasTec’s other state endeavors.

### **Partnerships:**

Provide the identity of any partners or affiliates if the applicant is proposing a project for which the applicant affirms that a formalized agreement or letter of support exists between the provider and one or more unaffiliated partners where the partner is one of the following:

- a separate private provider of broadband service, requiring a formalized agreement; or
- a nonprofit or not-for-profit, or a for-profit subsidiary of either, and the applicant is:
  - being allowed access and use of the partner's infrastructure, on special terms and conditions designed to facilitate the provision of broadband services in unserved areas, requiring a formalized agreement;
  - utilizing a matching financial and/or in-kind contribution provided by one or more partners, requiring a formalized agreement; or
  - a parish, municipality, or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, may qualify as a nonprofit for the purposes of the GUMBO grant program. Letters of support by a parish, municipality, or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, supporting an application may be submitted as part of an application. A letter of support does not require a formalized agreement.
- Provide a brief narrative explaining how the partnership or affiliation will facilitate deployment and reduce cost per prospective broadband recipient. For applications or project areas where the nonprofit or not-for-profit partner provides only matching financial support, that information can be documented in the budget section within the relevant application or project area.

LFC, LLC currently has signed contract with Jeff Davis Parish Town of Welsh Mayor Karl Arceneaux and the entire Welsh Alderman staff. This agreement is attached. LFC, LLC is in the process of signing a contract with the Town of Welsh to provide FTTH services contingent upon grant award. LFC, LLC is also in the process of receiving additional letters of support from local schools, business owners, and community members. It cannot be overstated that LFC, LLC's proposed grant award will offer tremendous local job opportunities while decreasing local healthcare needs and increasing local student educational ventures. Jeff Davis Parish has been decimated by the 2020 hurricanes Laura and Delta, and FTTH will enable a more thriving and resilient community due to increased individual and business opportunities fiber optics to the home provides. This true value FTTH broadband service will also provide tangible upgrades to emergency medical services, flash flood relief, and deliver a protected underground fiber optics infrastructure that will enrich all future Jeff Davis Parish generations.

For work being performed by Hudson Initiative or Veterans Initiative qualified applicants or contractors, provide documentation and/or a formalized agreement.

LFC, LLC currently is endorsed by The Acadiana Veteran's Association founder Andrew T. Ward. This agreement is attached in Appendix B. AVA's official doctrines promote the employment of local small business entrepreneurs to significantly join in and work directly with LFC, LLC, AVA, and the local Welsh City Council. AVA encourages all contractors and suppliers to outreach with local small businesses for materials and labor services. To that end, LFC, LLC has secured an agreement with Undrgrnd Services/Bully Industrial and also local to Welsh The Boring Company to facilitate underground infrastructure build out as subcontractors. Additional subcontractors will also be employed through the grant to run "Last Mile" services to the home and business. LFC, LLC as an affiliate with AVA will observe good faith practices when attempting to meet all the Hudson and/or the Veteran's Initiative goals, with veterans strongly encouraged for employment where each will receive added hiring "points" for job vacancies.

## Project Area

### Assessment of the Current Level of Broadband Access in the Proposed Deployment Area

Describe the current level of service within the area and provide the data source or methodology used to capture this information. Raw data may be submitted as part of the assessment. If data is available to support differences between advertised and transmission speeds, applicants may also submit applications for areas where transmission speeds are less than 25:3 Mbps.

LFC, LLC proposes construction of a symmetric XGSPON fiber network capable of delivering multi-gigabyte speeds to the underserved areas of Jeff Davis Parish. The proposed service area finds many of its current customers are limited to less than 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload. LFC, LLC will build out our fiber network to provide 100% penetration. This will allow LFC, LLC to provide internet speeds of up to 10gig to every proposed community business, home, farm, school, and town office. Welsh, like many rural Louisiana townships, have landed on the wrong side of the digital divide, which include communities of color, lower-income areas, and areas where broadband is more expensive to deploy. Rural communities like those in Jeff Davis Parish are affected because they are further from municipal communities and this remoteness is reflected in the lower population of the town. Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020 were disastrous for the current operating broadband infrastructure across the entire Jeff Davis Parish community.

## Services

Provide a description of service options to be provided:

Service Name	Upload/download speed	Date of 1st Availability	Data Cap	# of recipients	Price
Jefferson Davis Parish ISP	100 MBPS/100 MBPS	Dependent on Grant Approval	No Data Caps	2000	60.00

## Marketing

Provide documentation for applicant engagement to connect consumers with community education forums, multimedia advertising, and marketing programs.

LFC, LLC will offer a press release to the Welsh Citizen detailing the grant announcement. LFC, LLC will also distribute instructional materials (a 1-sheet map and fiber information handout at community locations) through the local schools, libraries, and businesses. When construction is ready to begin, a press conference will be given to local media and local officials about what can be expected during the initial build out in the town. An open house will also be held at the LFC, LLC Welsh office to “meet and greet” community members, further explaining the benefits of fiber optics. When the fiber construction for each contract area begins, literary materials will be distributed via door hangers to each contract area home. The broadband literacy information launch will also include but not be limited to additional print media, leaflets, local radio interviews, social media coverage, website updates with photos and links, and ongoing grass roots marketing—such as neighborhood events, press releases and digital newsletters, and second door hangers, offering pre-registration services available and orders can be taken once fiber is spliced and tested. LFC, LLC welcomes all opportunities to engage with Welsh community leaders, school administrators, and business leaders, to foster and facilitate a heightened awareness of LFC, LLC. A monthly town hall Q & A discussion will provide updates to community officials about the success of ongoing fiber construction. Door to door sales will also educate customers on the fiber construction to the home for free—even if they choose not to subscribe. This grass roots door-to-door broadband literacy campaign will significantly educate, and impact, lower socio-economic sectors of the Welsh community as to the benefits of fiber optics as illustrated in the Adoption section below.

## Adoption

Provide documentation that shows low-income household service offerings, digital equity or literacy support, or programs or partnerships to provide these services. The applicant should also indicate current participation in, or plans to, accept the federal Lifeline subsidy.

The negative implications of underserved broadband citizens in rural Louisiana are far reaching, and LFC, LLC commits to fully endorse and support the GUMBO program's initiatives to bridge the gap between lower income households and middle-income households, engendering equitable service opportunities for all community stakeholders through the Marketing strategies outlined in this document. Low-cost broadband service offerings help to conquer the current digital divide. LFC, LLC is committed to bringing Jeff Davis Parish affordable broadband fiber to the home connectivity to homes, schools, and businesses. Special discounted programs for the low-income families may reduce their monthly broadband bill by nearly half the price. The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP) is based upon federal poverty guidelines, and LFC, LLC plans to include the ACP subsidies for homes that qualify under the new laws, and speeds and pricing may be less than \$30 per month. LFC, LLC also plans to administer several outreach programs to the Jeff Davis Parish community at large, and these are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Press releases, an open house, and monthly townhall Q & A meetings on the business, educational, and health care benefits of reliable fiber optic broadband services for underserved and lower-income Jeff Davis Parish residents, including following the Marketing campaign.
- Video and phone conferences with local business and civic leaders about LFC, LLC's broadband services engagement program for lower income stakeholders.
- Consultation with Jeff Davis Parish's low-income housing managers to disseminate important ACP information to tenants, including door hangars in contracted areas as established in this documents Marketing section.
- Ongoing communication with media, social media, and community about the status of the fiber, with webpage photos and links about fiber deployment
- Ensure grassroots communications are easy to read and understand by persons of all educational backgrounds.

## Community Support

Evidence of support for the project from citizens, local government, businesses, and institutions in the community, including letters of correspondence from citizens, local government, businesses, and institutions in the community that supports the project

Attached in Affidavit A is the signed business contract with current Welsh Mayor Karl Arceneaux signed by himself and each of his entire Alderman staff requesting that this grant be awarded to LFC, LLC. LFC, LLC has the extensive support and forthcoming correspondences for LFC, LLC to receive the GUMBO initiative from Jeff Davis Parish citizens, businesses, and local community institutions. Broadband surveys and two focus groups Q & A's were held at Welsh and Jennings townhall meetings in the city council chambers. A focus of these townhall meetings were to shed light on the current deficits rural communities face economically and educationally due to a lack of access to functional and reliable broadband network. The entire townhall's number one concern was that Jeff Davis Parish students are currently unable to complete classwork from home online or to attend video conferences because of limited access. Attendees to the town hall meetings showing strong support for an all-fiber broadband network as those envisioned by the GUMBO program. Additional problems such a limited business bandwidth cause local Jeff Davis businesses to have to wait until post-business hours to complete orders, as broadband access is bottlenecked during peak hours. Townhall concerns about broadband access to the small local healthcare clinics and Hospitals were also justified as consequently many Jeff Davis Parish citizens are experiencing gaps in their healthcare needs since reliable healthcare services cannot be offered through the Jeff Davis Parish hospital's telehealth services during the COVID pandemic. This lack of home broadband access has caused expensive delays in health care services. The unanimous townhall support LFC, LLC received from three townhall meetings exemplifies the desperate need for reliable broadband in southwest rural Louisiana and justifies the LFC, LLC GUMBO grant award. In conclusion, LFC, LLC has drafted an actionable business plan, built upon filling Jeff Davis Parish' broadband needs. LFC, LLC will bring swift and beneficial services by infusing the lower income and underserved families and businesses with a powerful and reliable broadband infrastructure.

## Local Workforce

Documentation of a workforce plan prioritizing the hiring of local, Louisiana resident workers, to include a signed letter of intent with a post-secondary educational institution that is a member of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, containing an obligation upon the applicant, and contractors or subcontractors of the applicant, to put forth a good-faith effort to hire, when possible, recent graduates of broadband-related programs.

LFC, LLC will hire local workers into the workforce, and take positive and above-board ethical strides to include small businesses, minority-owned business, and female-owned businesses into the ongoing implementation of services, equipment, and construction of the Jeff Davis Parish broadband infrastructure. LFC, LLC will also require any businesses subcontracting with LFC, LLC to take similar measures that encourage the inclusion of small, minority-owned, and female-owned businesses. Recent McNeese graduates in broadband-related technologies will be offered opportunities to be hired, when possible, and offered similar opportunities by every LFC, LLC's subcontractor via The McNeese State University Job Placement Program. Also, when LFC, LLC is solicited, established small, minority, and female-owned businesses will be placed on solicitation lists, to foster inclusion into future service contracts.

## Technical Report

### Reporting Requirements

Explain in technical detail the technologies to be used in the proposed project and the broadband transmission speeds offered to prospective broadband recipients as a result of the project. If it would be impracticable, because of geography, topography, or excessive cost to design a broadband infrastructure project that would deliver 100:100 Mbps, the applicant must provide an explanation. Transmission speeds of 100:20 Mbps are the minimum allowable under this grant program.

LFC, LLC proposed project is a mixture of DOCSIS 3.1 Remote PHY with High SPlit along with new areas being built with XGS PON. Data on both copied and pasted below. Both are capable of 100:100, GIG:GIG, and faster. All new fiber builds are 100% underground where ground access is available. DOCSIS 3.1 Allows for 1+ Gbps Symmetrical Speeds Uses existing Cable Infrastructure Implements the use of OFDM and Higher Orders of Modulation Is a Standards-based technology deployed by numerous operators and are available from several Vendors The Harmonic CableOS Solution Allows for "Full Spectrum" DOCSIS 3.1 6x OFDM Channel Blocks @ 4k modulation = 10.9 Gbps Downstream 2x OFDMA Spectrum" DOCSIS 3.1 6x OFDM Channel Blocks @ 4k modulation = 10.9 Gbps Downstream 2x OFDMA Channel Blocks @ 1k modulation = 1.5 Gbps Upstream Greater than 1 Gbps symmetrical speeds are attainable at lower modulations Adding DOCSIS 3.0 Single Carrier Qams adds even more bandwidth available to subscribers (Each group of 32 SC-QAMs = an additional 1.2 Gbps of BW Available and widely deployed globally today Future DOCSIS Technologies allow for 10 Gbps Symmetrical DOCSIS 4.0 implements addition spectrum and 'overlap' capabilities for these improved speeds Uses same cable infrastructure with some component upgrades FTTX Technology and Design Methodology LFC, LLC proposes Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) architecture for the last mile. FTTH technologies come in two standards: Active and Passive. LFC, LLC plans to use Calix passive optical networks and will employ Gigabit Passive Optical network ("GPON") architecture for its FTTH, employing 1:32 distributed splits. Passive Optical Network (PON) is a point to multipoint technology that connects an Optical Line Terminal (OLT) to many Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) or Optical Network Units (ONUs). PON networks utilize passive splitters between the OLT and ONT and offers service providers flexibility in designing the network. The OLT broadcasts traffic downstream to every ONTs and each ONT only reads the content that is addressed to it. Encryption is used to prevent ONTs from eavesdropping on traffic not addressed to them. Quality of Service (QoS) features will be

implemented to ensure proper service prioritization and delivery. Oversubscription on a GPON network with a 32 way split is 12.8 to 1 if all customers are sold 1Gbps service (32 Gigabits / 2.5 Gigabits). LFC, LLC will deploy Calix E7-2 chassis within nodes it places, from which it will serve the funded passings. Combined, LFC, LLC plans to construct hundreds of miles of predominately underground fiber plant. 1:32 splitters will be placed within hardened splice closures within clusters of served locations, what we term Fiber Service Areas ("FSAs"). Each FSA will require a single dedicated strand back to the node serving it. Fiber cables will be sized for additional splitters as needed. LFC, LLC intends to employ the Calix E7-2 XGS-PON. Each card supports 8 SFPs of XGS PON. Accordingly, subscribers will be capable of speeds of 10 Gbps download, 10,000 upload (10 Gbps /10 Gbps). Distances within the proposed network should require no greater than Class C+ optics within each card, allowing for distances of as great as 60km from the PON OLTs to subscribers. Each SFP is capable of speeds of 10 Gbps download and 10 Gbps upload in total, at the customer premise, LFC, LLC will use the Calix Gigapoint ONT as its standard Optical Network Terminal. The ONT has, in addition to its PON port, one (10) gigabit ethernet port and one (1) voice line. From the ONT, LFC, LLC intends to connect to a Calix wireless router which LFC, LLC will remotely manage. LFC, LLC will also either connect phones directly to the ONT or connect the ONT to the customer's own internal wiring. The upgrade paths available on a passive optical architecture today include both NG PON2 and XGS PON which could be employed by simply changing out electronics on one or both ends of the connection. Both modify the ITU-T G.989.2 specification and support one to sixteen (16) 10 Gbps connections on the same strand using DWDM wavelengths. Upgrade frameworks allow for an upgrade to either of these specifications while allowing current subscribers to stay on the current platform, allowing for an easier upgrade for owners and subscribers. In either case, the distributed split model allows for upgrade flexibility.

Explain the scalability of the broadband infrastructure to be deployed to meet future bandwidth needs.

From its inception, LFC, LLC identified customer base growth and customer bandwidth needs as the most important network design consideration. For this reason, LFC, LLC chose FTTH, PON for the last mile, and Calix as its access technology manufacturer specifically with its any PON solution in mind. Every served location will have a dedicated fiber strand between it and the 1:32 splitter feeding its service area, with additional fibers within each cable capable of lighting additional splitters. By this we mean that LFC, LLC is designing its network with more than 100% penetration in mind for last mile. The Harmonics REMOTE PHY 3.1 with High split is software upgradable to DOCSIS 4.0 at 10 Gig Symmetric. XGS-PON is already 10Gig, and with it being fiber PLC design is scalable as the fastest possible fiber.

Provide a proposed construction timeline and duration of the deployment project period. The deployment project period is the time from award of the grant agreement to the time that service is available to the targeted prospective broadband recipients under the grant. Describe estimated timeline, deployment roll-out and number of end-users to be served in each phase (10 percent, 35 percent, 60 percent, 85 percent, 100 percent).

LFC, LLC is committed to start construction quickly, within two months of the grant award and will order the requisite materials immediately. While awaiting the materials, LFC, LLC will begin the middle-mile build. The open communication and open dialogue LFC, LLC has invested with Welsh's mayor, town council, and civic leaders generates much good faith which will be further enhanced by the marketing campaign detailed above. Project Milestones Date Milestone Assigned to Position (upon grant award) Start assembling and submitting for all required project permits LFC, LLC Horizontal boring of duct throughout entire project – MasTec Contractor Continuous until project completion along with local subcontractors Initial community engagement campaigns (upon grant award) LFC, LLC Hand Hole installation – MasTec Contractor Continuous until project completion with reporting to town and state Gather property Access forms from property owners in initial phases LFC, LLC Pulling and blowing of mainline cable and 2 strand drop – MasTec Contractor Continuous until project completion MasTec Contractor begins installation of drop conduit from curb to home (upon grant award) Begin marketing and Residential Sales Efforts LFC, LLC Begin splicing all mainline cable and drop cable MasTec Contractor

(upon grant award) Inspection and sign off of initial phases -- 10% completed MasTec Contractor (upon first date of grant approval) Begin splicing all mainline cable and drop cable of additional phases -- continuous MasTec Contractor (upon first date of grant approval) Begin installation of fiber switching and transport equipment -- continuous MastTec Contractor (upon first date of grant approval) Begin marketing and Residential Sales Efforts in additional phases including property access forms -- continuous until project completion LFC, LLC (upon first date of grant approval) LFC, LLC begin installation of drop conduit from curb to home in additional phases -- continuous MasTec Contractor (upon first date of grant approval) Inspection and sign off of secondary phases (upon first date of grant approval) 35% completed LFC, LLC (upon first date of grant approval) 60% project completion LFC, LLC (upon first date of grant approval) 85% project completion LFC, LLC all splicing tested and complete LFC, LLC (upon first date of grant approval) Cleanup and restoration Project Fully completed and signed off on -- 100% LFC, LLC (upon first date of grant approval)

**X** **Wired Infrastructure**           **Fixed Wireless**

## **Wired Infrastructure Deployment Reporting Requirements**

Describe the general design of the project and deployment plan and include the following:

- Explanation of the existing networks and equipment to be used for the project. If assets are owned by another entity, explain how they will be used for this project and, if applicable, provide a copy of the agreement between the applicant and the owner.
- Total number of miles of project infrastructure deployment, and the number of miles of project infrastructure deployment accounted for by preexisting infrastructure
- Detailed explanation of how the new or upgraded infrastructure will serve the prospective broadband recipients. In the case of the installation or upgrade of a specific site infrastructure, such as a point of presence or fiber hut (fiber), pedestal (cable), or a remote exchange/DSLAM (DSL), the applicant must include:
  - The number of prospective broadband recipients that will be served by that site infrastructure
  - The distance from the specific site infrastructure such as a POP, pedestal, or DSLAM to the end user(s) and the expected broadband speed that will be effectively delivered
- Detailed description of the design work needed for deployment, such as, but not limited to, pole work, acquiring or updating easements, and/or property acquisition.

Existing network is fiber backbone and pops with 600,000 feet aerial coax strand and will be upgrading to DOCSIS 3.1 R-PHY with High split. The current coax/strand we will be using serves approximately 5,000 passings. There will need to be 500,000 new feet of fiber built that will serve more than 2000 passings. All passings will be served back to Welsh HUB. Right of ways already permitted in grant protest areas.

### **Wired Assets**

Existing Network	Existing Equipment	New/Upgraded Infrastructure	Installation Type	Num of Recipients	Avg Distance in Miles Between Prospective Recipients	Expected Speed
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## **Budget**

### **Budget**

The project budget should reflect all eligible project costs to be funded through the GUMBO Grant Program. Additionally, the project budget should include the minimum provider funding match of

at least 20%, any local government funding match from a parish, municipality, and/or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, and the requested GUMBO Grant Program funding.

The supplemental Gumbo grant award and 10% to 15% matching private and public equity funds from multiple local banks and publicly traded companies shall be disclosed upon grant approval. These funds will be used to confirm prior research into project infrastructure mapping, calling locates, bidding from local and eligible contracting companies, purchasing of all fiber optic wiring components, electronics, and networking equipment, and deployment. The funding shall also be used for all labor and contracting services mentioned above until project completion and activation and marketing of services. Any video services shall be provided by the national cooperative satellite partnerships, or through streaming partner services. Any telephone services shall be provided by VOIP through regional and national teaming partnerships. Additionally, Jeff Davis Parish is a rural community that will require directional boring across extensive distances to connect underserved and lower-income households, and this makes the LFC, LLC build out different from many other worthy grant applications. LFC, LLC's desire to build out both middle mile where needed, and last mile to connect low-income properties, exemplifies the fundamental intent of the GUMBO grant rule. LFC, LLC will not reimburse a grantee for any expenses incurred prior to the executed grant contract date. Any such expenses may not be included as grant eligible expenses. The proposed project leverages existing dark fiber and fiber optic networks from legacy facilities in the proposed areas of deployment. All state review environmental requirements will be in accordance with Louisiana law. The locations of all broadband infrastructures shall not impede local/state/federal historic architectural or archeological resources. Applicant and designated contractor shall provide a minimum of five years of fiber high speed services as outlined. Additional equipment, installation products, and upgrade services for in-home, in-business, or in-community institution WI-FI or DAS coverage shall be paid for by customer or by institutions for installation and equipment given market rates at time of launch.

### **Proof of Funding Availability**

Provide a signed letter of funding availability from each source of funds committed for the project. If loan or other grant funds are pledged, a loan/grant commitment letter from each source of funds must be included. Should an applicant be an awardee of Universal Service, Connect American Phase II, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, or other federal or non-federal funds for the deployment of broadband service, the applicant shall attest as to whether or not the applicant's GUMBO application and associated project's buildout is dependent upon such awarded funds.

LFC, LLC's investment firm's private equity and other private interests will match 10% of total grant funding. Abbeville's Gulf Coast Bank and other private interests will open a CD and pledge CD as collateral for the loan. Loan rate will be 2% above the CD rate. Current CD rates are 12 month 0.6%, 24 month 0.85%, 36 month 1.0%, 48 month 1.3%, and 60 month 1.65% \*These are the rates as of 06/09/2022 and are subject to change at any time. See above publicly traded company and local and regional information above.